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Sen. Van Woerkom votes in favor of Michigan workers

LANSING — Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, welcomes the Michigan Senate's increase today of the state's minimum wage.

"Our action today helps working people throughout the state but does so without adding job-killing provisions," Van Woerkom said. "Working families will get a raise and by phasing the increase in over time, businesses will be able to prepare for the extra costs."

The bill, which passed the Senate 35-0, would raise the minimum wage to \$6.95 per hour on Oct. 1, 2006. It provides for an increase to \$7.15 on July 1, 2007 and \$7.40 on July 1, 2008.

Michigan's minimum wage has not been increased in nine years. The Senate-passed proposal is actually higher than the increase being put forth by those who wish to make annual, mandatory minimum wage increases part of Michigan's constitution.

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